

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING

Holiday Inn West Conference Center

7501 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

July 21, 2006

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Chairperson Kennedy reinforced the purpose and primary role of the Commission.

Chairperson Kennedy welcomed everyone to today's meeting, and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Jerutha Kennedy, Owen Bieber, Cheryl Bollinger, Rose Gill, Annette Guilfoyle, Chun-Keung Leung, Thomas Rau, Ramesh Verma, William Walters, IV, Janice Wilson, and James Wright

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)

Herman Dooha, Sonia Harb, Albert Lewis, Alberta Wilburn

OSA STAFF PRESENT

Cindy Albrecht, Eric Berke, Dan Doezeema, Bonnie Graham, Sharon Gire, Laura McMurtry, and Holliace Spencer

VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT

Angela Willis, Lauren Essenmacher, Rebecca Reimann, Miriam Reibold, and Judith Condon

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Wright made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Rau seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Walters made the motion to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2006, Commission meeting. Commissioner Bollinger seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

None

OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Gire welcomed everyone to the meeting stating it has been a very interesting month. Director Gire shared the following:

UPDATES

Director Gire stated that she has been doing a number of speaking events at the request of the Governor's office. Director Gire gave a presentation to the UAW retirees on July 6 at Black Lake and also spoke to MEA retirees in Alpena on Healthy Aging. Director Gire stated that while in Alpena she was able to do a radio interview with WATZ.

As part of an advocacy effort, Director Gire stated, OSA sent out a press release warning seniors about high temperatures and the dangers it poses to seniors. Director Gire noted that OSA staff had conducted three interviews as a result of the press release. If you would like a copy of the press release please contact OSA.

BUDGET

Director Gire stated no points of difference exist between the House and the Senate versions of the OSA proposed FY 2007 budget so there will be no reductions. Director Gire announced that OSA was pleased to learn that funds were appropriated within the Department of Human Services budget for the Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work Kinship Care Resource Center. The Kinship Care Resource Center provides technical assistance to local communities trying to initiate programs for kinship care families. The center also operates a toll-free helpline to provide information and assistance to kinship families, a newsletter, training workshops and legislative advocacy. For the past two years the center has been affiliated with the MSU School of Law to provide legal assistance to these families.

"OWN YOUR FUTURE" Grant Application

Director Gire was pleased to announce that OSA staff, Jane Church, participated in the development of a grant application for long term care education. The application was submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services by the Office of Long Term Care Supports and Services for a new campaign designed to increase adult consumer awareness about the importance of early planning for long term care. The campaign is entitled "Own Your Future".

TASK FORCE ON ELDER ABUSE

Director Gire stated the Elder Abuse Task Force has completed its work and a draft report has been submitted to Governor Granholm. Director Gire stated she is hopeful the report will serve as just the beginning of changes to increase protection for older adults. Director Gire noted that the Commissioners will be provided with a copy of the final report.

OFFICE OF LONG TERM CARE SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

Director Gire announced that Mr. Mike Head has been named as Director of the new Office of Long Term Care Supports and Services. In addition, OSA staff member, Jane Church, will be on loan to the new office for the next two years.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Proposed Substantive Amendment to the FY 2006 Annual Area Implementation Plan for the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan (PSA 10)

Dan Doezema, OSA staff, reviewed the proposed substantive amendment to the FY 2006 Annual Area Implementation Plan (AIP) for the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) of Northwest Michigan. Mr. Doezema stated the amendment, as specified in Appendix G: Request to Transfer Funds, will revise the AIP and Area Plan Budget by transferring \$4,687 from Title III-C-1 Congregate Nutrition Services to Title III-B Supportive Services for In-Home Services. The transfer is requested because of increasing demand for in-home services within the PSA.

Mr. Doezema stated OSA has reviewed all materials submitted by the AAA and determined the necessary actions required for a substantive amendment, including a public hearing, held June 1, 2006, have been completed. As a result, Mr. Doezema recommends approval of the transfer.

A motion was made by Commissioner Guilfoyle to approve the substantive amendment to the FY 2006 AIP for the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan (Region 10 AAA) and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The Commission approved with an 11-0-0 vote.

A discussion followed with Commission Rau asking if Region 10 AAA will adjust their budget at the beginning of the fiscal year to reflect the increased need for in-home services without needing to request a transfer later in the year. Mr. Doezema stated the AAA does request a transfer from Title III-C to Title III-B in the AIP each year and works hard to come as close as it can to maximizing resources in all areas. Commissioner Verma asked for clarification as to whether any of the transferred funds would be used for administration. Mr. Doezema explained the administrative funding section of the area grant budget and stated the transferred funds would only be used for services allowed under Title III-B. These services include Information and Assistance, transportation, homemaking, personal care, respite care, legal assistance, LTC ombudsman, senior center staffing, and program development.

Commissioner Walters stated that congregate nutrition programs are very important in his area and he is concerned that funds will continue to be diverted from this program for other services. Chairperson Kennedy stated that in-home services are also in great demand across the state and needed to keep seniors in their homes. Chairperson Kennedy also stated that many factors influence the participation of seniors at congregate meal sites such as cultural differences, food preparation, and individual dietary restrictions. Chairperson Kennedy noted that service providers must understand

the needs and preferences of the seniors they serve in order to be effective. Commissioner Guilfoyle acknowledged that congregate meal programs are also very popular in the Grand Rapids area, as a way for seniors to socialize. However, the Commission needs to allow the agency to strike a balance that is appropriate in their area. Commissioner Guilfoyle further stated that increased costs due to rising fuel prices are forcing many home-delivered meal providers to cut back on the number of days they deliver meals and expects the need to shift funds will only increase given the changing needs of the older population. The Commission will need to listen to the information presented from AAAs and be flexible so that local needs can be addressed. Chairperson Kennedy reinforced the fact that many of the needs of older adults are similar throughout Michigan, but how those needs are addressed can be very different in different parts of the state.

AAA 1-B REQUEST TO TERMINATE SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SCSEP) PY 2006-07 GRANT

Laura McMurtry, OSA staff, stated OSA was notified in writing that AAA1-B would be relinquishing sponsorship of the Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). Ms. McMurtry stated that a termination agreement was reached between AAA 1-B and OSA in which the area agency would continue to assist in administering the program through August 31, 2006. At that time, a new grantee would take over administration of the program for the remainder of the program year to ensure a minimum of disruption to the participants.

Ms. McMurtry stated that OSA has been in communication with the Macomb/St. Clair Michigan*Works! One-Stop Center to accept the transfer of AAA 1-B participants from the counties of Macomb and St. Clair into their SCSEP program. Ms. McMurtry stated the One-Stop Center has also expressed an interest in providing administrative oversight of the remaining participants from the counties of Livingston, Monroe, and Oakland and will be negotiating memorandums of understanding with the Michigan*Works! One-Stop Centers that cover those outlying counties. This will help ensure all current participants have access to needed employment and training services.

Ms. McMurtry requested Commission approval for the termination of PY 2006 SCSEP grant to AAA 1-B and the transfer of all AAA1-B SCSEP positions to the PY 2006 SCSEP grant administered by the Macomb/St. Clair Michigan*Works! One-Stop Center.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walters to approve the termination of the SCSEP PY 2006-07 Grant to AAA 1-B and transfer of AAA 1-B positions to the Macomb/St. Clair Michigan*Works! One-Stop Center. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The Commission approved with an 11-0-0 vote.

Discussion followed with Commissioner Walters asking if the Macomb/St. Clair One-Stop Center covers the entire county of St. Clair and if the agency has offices in Livingston, Oakland, and Macomb Counties. Ms. McMurtry responded the One-Stop does serve all of St. Clair County and explained that SCSEP participants in the outlying

counties will have case managers who will provide services on an individual basis. The memorandums of understanding negotiated will specify arrangements in each county to ensure that all eligible seniors are referred to Macomb/St. Clair offices.

Commissioner Wilson asked for an explanation of the process for seniors seeking employment. Ms. McMurtry explained that older adults seeking employment may access opportunities through a Michigan*Works! One-Stop Center. Appropriate referrals will be made depending on what programs and/or services they qualify for. To qualify for SCSEP, an older adult must be 55 years of age or older and have income at or below 125% of the poverty level. Commissioner Kennedy asked if individuals that are disabled but not yet 55 years old, qualify for SCSEP. Ms. McMurtry stated adults with disabilities under 55 years of age do not qualify for SCSEP, but assistance is available to these people through the Michigan*Works! One-Stop Centers as well. Ms. McMurtry stated she is unsure of the qualifications for those programs.

STATE PLAN ON SERVICES TO MICHIGAN'S OLDER ADULTS – FY 06 AMENDMENTS AND FY 2007 EXTENSION

Bonnie Graham, OSA staff, presented to the Commission a request to approve the FY 2006 Amendments and FY 2007 Extension to Michigan's State Plan on Services to Older Adults. Ms. Graham stated that the revised plan extends activities for a fourth year of a planning cycle that began in FY 04.

Ms. Graham noted that upon the advice of the Administration on Aging, OSA is seeking an extension of the current state plan as allowed by federal regulations. Ms. Graham stated the extension would allow OSA to continue its strategic planning activities and support staff in the development of new strategies and indicators for inclusion in the FY 2008-09 State Plan. The extension would also allow OSA to reflect recommendations that may be made regarding the Elder Abuse Task Force Report and the development of the Single Points of Entry (SPEs). Ms. Graham stated OSA is most proud of the extensive public input received as part of the state plan development process. Ms. Graham stated that OSA hosted seven state plan public hearings, with more than 300 attendees of which 110 gave testimony. Ms. Graham applauded both the commitment from the public to voice their concerns and needs, and to the Commissioners for being visible advocates for older adults.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bollinger to approve the FY 06 Amendments and FY 2007 Extension and seconded by Commissioner Wright. The Commission approved with a 11-0-0 vote.

Discussion followed with Commissioner Leung asking if OSA will be tracking the State Plan goals. Ms. Graham stated that OSA would be tracking its goals through the creation of a new quality council that would meet monthly to review progress. Director Gire acknowledged the work of all OSA staff on the plan and thanked the OSA Management team for their leadership. Commissioner Wilson also thanked OSA for making the State Plan a readable document.

Commissioner Kennedy asked for clarification on why the strategies for mental health and dementia were not combined. Ms. Graham explained that OSA viewed the two as separate issues that would require different approaches, but further discussion could certainly take place as the new state plan is developed for FY 2008-2009.

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

State Advisory Council (SAC) Report on the June 22, 2006 meeting

Annette Guilfoyle, Chairperson, briefed the Commission on the June 22 SAC meeting stating that it was the last meeting for some members as their terms were expiring. Ms. Guilfoyle stated that the exiting members talked about their experiences working with the SAC. Ms. Guilfoyle also stated the SAC started discussion on their new charge, In-Home Services: Infrastructure. Ms. Guilfoyle stated it was going to be a very interesting year as the charge is expansive given the many pieces involved in meeting the needs of seniors who are aging in place. Ms. Guilfoyle also stated that the SAC is looking for presenters to attend their meetings and provide information related to the new charge.

Commissioner Bollinger stated that she attended some of the SAC meetings and would like to see some type of recognition for the members whose terms expired.

Chairperson Kennedy stated she would provide whatever is needed for the departing SAC members.

2007 Tentative Commission Meeting Schedule

Cindy Albrecht, OSA staff, presented to the Commission a tentative Commission schedule for 2007. Ms. Albrecht stated the schedule includes three public hearings to be conducted in conjunction with the regular Commission meetings that are being scheduled outside of Lansing. Ms. Albrecht asked the Commission if the proposed schedule, including the public hearing sites, is acceptable.

Discussion followed with Commissioner Guilfoyle requesting consideration of scheduling a meeting in West Michigan, preferably the Grand Rapids area. Commissioners were in agreement with the tentative schedule. Chairperson Kennedy agreed that since the Commissioners represent different parts of the state that it is necessary for the Commission to be visible statewide.

Other

Commissioner Guilfoyle announced that on August 8 Kent County will be voting on renewal of the county-wide senior millage and would like to request the Commission's support by means of a letter of support. Commissioner Wright also stated that he is very active in supporting renewal of the senior millage in his area and he too, would like a letter of support. Discussion followed on the importance of senior millages as a means of expanding services to a growing older population.

Commissioner Guilfoyle made a motion for the Commission to adopt a resolution in support of senior millages on a statewide basis. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion and the following language was introduced: "The Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging supports the concept of senior millages as a means to address

the unmet needs of older adults in Michigan.” The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner Walters stated the Sanilac County Annual Senior Fair had over 2,000 seniors who attended and 100 presenters, all made possible because of a senior millage. Commissioner Bieber stated the United Auto Workers and Kent County Democratic Party have endorsed renewal of the Kent County Millage.

Commissioner Verma informed the Commission that a festival in honor of India Day will be held on August 20, 2006 at the Rock Financial Show Place in Novi. The festival will feature traditional Indian food, arts and crafts, music and dance. Commissioner Verma encouraged all to attend the festival and to visit <http://miindiaday.org> for more information.

Commissioner Wilson invited everyone to attend a free seminar for people working with older adults on Tuesday, August 15 from 3:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. including a light dinner, or Thursday, August 17 from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. including a continental breakfast. Commissioner Wilson stated this seminar is sponsored by CARE and the Macomb County Community Mental Health Office of Substance Abuse. If you would like more information or to register, please call 586-541-0033, ext. 200.

Commissioner Rau distributed a study from the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University, which offered support of the information presented last month regarding the length of nursing home stays.

Commissioner Verma also informed the Commission about the availability of two booklets that he found at the Novi library. The publications, Services for Seniors and Legal Rights for Seniors are available free of charge and are excellent resources. Commissioner Verma requested that all the Commissioners receive copies of the booklets.

Commissioner Wilson introduced Angela Willis, from Macomb County Department of Senior Citizens, who negotiated a deal with Benefits Control Methods, Plymouth, for dental insurance for seniors and others without dental insurance for \$69.00 a year per family. Ms. Willis explained how the program was developed and works in Macomb County. Ms. Willis stated that she is available to discuss the program with anyone who would like more information. Please call her directly at 586-469-6304.

Commissioner Kennedy stated she received a letter from Senator Carl Levin regarding Medicare Part D and a copy was placed in Commissioners folders.

Chairperson Kennedy recognized Ms. Lauren Essenmacher, Director of the Council on Aging for Clare and Gladwin Counties. Ms. Essenmacher applauded the Commission on the work they have accomplished and their efforts to help seniors remain in their own homes. Chairperson Kennedy also recognized Ms. Becky Reimann, Director of Bay

County Council on Aging. Ms. Reimann also thanked the Commission for their support of senior millages and aging in place initiatives.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following today's meeting an orientation session will be held for Commissioners regarding FY 2007-09 Multi-Year/Annual Implementation Plans. All Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

A copy of the July Corrective Plan of Action progress report from The Senior Alliance is also included in Commissioners folders.

The next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on August 18, 2006 at the Holiday Inn West Conference Center, Lansing.

The next meeting of the State Advisory Council will be held on October 5, 2006, 9:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn West Conference Center, Lansing.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Rau and seconded by Commissioner Wright. Chairperson Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.